

EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines
Monday, January 27, 2014

***** DAILY HOT LIST *****

WASHINGTON POST

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE SUN

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT

GREENWIRE

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

HEALTHY WATERS FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

A green option for Peco gas customers

Residential customers who heat their homes with natural gas may be feeling rather comfy these cold winter days. But for those who feel a tinge of guilt about their carbon footprint, there's a way to ease their conscience. Washington Gas Energy Services Inc. (WGES), a retail energy supplier from Herndon, Va., on Thursday announced a new product for Peco gas customers that will offset the greenhouse emissions they produce by reducing carbon emissions in Pennsylvania. WGES will subsidize methane gas capture projects at landfills in Conestoga, Lebanon, and Scotland, Pa., which it says are verifiable environmental benefits. It is also creating a Pennsylvania Carbon Reduction Fund, managed by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, to fund additional clean air and water projects such as tree plantings throughout the state.

Frozen doors plaguing SEPTA

Malfunctioning doors on SEPTA's Regional Rail trains and Market-Frankford subway-elevated cars have plagued riders this week, as snow and ice have crippled their automated operation. On the railroad, the new Silverliner V railcars appear to be especially vulnerable to snow and cold, leaving riders unable to get out at their stops. Snow and ice can short out electric motors or block the tracks on which the doors move, forcing train operators to "cut out" or turn off a door to permit a train to move. That can leave passengers unable to use the door. "Our equipment does not like this five-degree weather," said Ron Hopkins, SEPTA's assistant general manager of operations. "The doors are what drive our reliability," Hopkins said, noting that if doors don't work, a train often will be delayed, throwing other trains off schedule, too. Mechanical doors on

buses and trolleys are less problematic, he said.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

National briefs: Chemical tank removal ordered

West Virginia's governor on Saturday ordered the company at the center of a chemical spill that tainted the state capital's water supply to remove all above-ground storage tanks from the Charleston operation. A statement released by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's office said Freedom Industries must start the dismantling process by March 15. The Jan. 9 spill at Freedom Industries of a chemical that is used to clean coal contaminated the water supply for 300,000 West Virginians, some of whom couldn't use their tap water for a week. The order to dismantle and properly dispose of the tanks also includes associated piping and machinery. The facility currently has 17 tanks. The governor's statement said crude MCHM leaked from one of three now-empty tanks containing the chemical at the plant.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Plugging electric vehicles in at cheapest time could save on power bills, CMU finds (Friday)

Electric vehicles could drive up power prices without the right equipment to ensure they're charging at the cheapest times, according to research from Carnegie Mellon University. Sophisticated timers could save \$50 to \$100 per car by delaying when electric cars tap into the grid, researchers in CMU's Engineering and Public Policy Department said. If owners plug their cars in when they get home — as everyone else arrives home to turn on lights, TVs and ovens — it hikes prices by adding demand at a peak time, they said. “If you charge cars when people get home, you use the ... power plants that are most expensive,” said Allison Weis, a CMU doctoral candidate whose work is funded in part by the National Science Foundation. “We're just trying to capture how much money is on the table.” The CMU researchers came up with their numbers by crunching data on New York power plants. Government agencies track power plant usage, and the researchers put that data into models that projected how much money would be wasted if electric cars are charged at times of peak demand. All of the work came from data modeling, not from testing cars.

Shale lease debate begins in Murrysville

Drilling in a community park could rake in millions of dollars for the Murrysville, but residents need to the risk versus the reward, officials said. On Wednesday, municipal officials confirmed that Monroeville-based drilling company Huntley & Huntley has offered \$2,250 per acre for the right to drill under 260 acres of Murrysville Community Park in addition to 12.5 percent of the royalties earned from selling whatever gas is extracted. By mid-April, officials will review an ordinance that would allow the municipality to seek bids for the gas rights. However, officials said that they hope residents petition for a referendum on the November ballot to allow residents their say.

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

ALLEGHENY FRONT (WESTERN PA. RADIO)

ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL

BERKS COUNTY NEWS

BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

Green energy handouts hurt Pennsylvanians The evidence is mounting that “green” energy is dirtier than it seems. The latest data comes from a new investigative report by CBS News. The federal government, according to the report, has lavished the green energy and technology industry with at least \$150 billion in taxpayer money in recent years. Yet this deluge of federal funding has only resulted in a string of technological flops and business bankruptcies. There’s no shortage of examples. Solyndra — which went bankrupt after receiving half a billion taxpayer dollars — is already well-known. But that company wasn’t alone. Abound Solar received \$400 million in 2010, then filed for bankruptcy in 2012. Fisker Automotive took \$528 million from the feds in 2009 and another \$392 million in 2012, then laid off 75 percent of its workforce last April. And LG Chem took \$151 million in stimulus money to build an electric car battery plant where employees were paid to be idle due to low consumer demand. In all of these cases, poor and middle class taxpayers came out the real losers. They paid for it once with their taxes and they will pay again with higher energy bills. The winners, though, are the millionaires and billionaires who used the taxpayers’ money to experiment with new technologies and business models. Our loss has been their experiential and monetary gain—even if the companies they founded go under.

Nockamixon is asking state supremes to reject appeal of Act 13 (Thursday) Nockamixon wants Pennsylvania’s Supreme Court to reject the state’s appeal of the Act 13 decision on oil and natural gas drilling. “The court got it right. Act 13 violated the people’s constitutionally guaranteed right,” township solicitor Jordan Yeager said Jan. 16. Last month, the state Supreme Court struck down Act 13, Pennsylvania’s oil and natural gas drilling law. The court’s majority agreed the law was unconstitutional and cited a violation of the state constitution’s Environmental Rights Amendment. The 1971 amendment states: “The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.” earlier this month, the state filed an appeal and asked the high court to remand the case to a lower state court for further evidence-gathering. Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection also appealed the Act 13

decision. Attorneys for the DEP argue the agency's responsibility to protect parks falls under provisions struck down in the ruling. Last week, Act 13's challengers filed a 19-page brief detailing opposition to the state's request to reconsider the high court's ruling. Nockamixon attorney Yeager argues that Gov. Corbett's administration doesn't deserve a do-over.

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES

DOYLESTOWN INTELLIGENCER

ELLWOOD CITY LEDGER

ERIE TIMES-NEWS

HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS

Middle school students envision transportation solutions for a 'Future City' in engineering competition at State Museum

Future City has received national attention and acclaim for its role in encouraging middle schoolers nationwide to develop their interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The annual challenge is one of the nation's leading engineering education programs and among the most popular. Today was no different at the State Museum in Harrisburg, where middle school students from around Central Pennsylvania vied to envision "Tomorrow's Transit: Design A Way To Move People In And Around Your City." In doing so, students confronted the challenges of globally rising urban populations rise, along with energy and climate change issues, in coming up with transportation solutions that are quick, safe, reliable and sustainable.

With no end to cold weather in sight, snow, waterway ice jams a threat (Friday) A series of cold fronts and blustery winds appears to have brought subzero temperatures to stay in the Harrisburg region, leading to concerns about more snow, waterway ice jams. As temperatures dipped below zero due to wind chills Thursday night, National Weather Service meteorologist Craig Evanego advised midstaters to get ready for the long haul, as back-to-back cold fronts are poised to keep

the thermometer nice and low at least through next week. "A high in the upper 20s on Saturday are looking like as good as it's going to get for the next seven days or so," Evanego said. "There's a pretty good chance of snow Saturday, and then again Sunday night into Monday and then there's a reinforcing shot of cold air coming through after that." The weather service also updated its snow projections for Saturday, Evanego said. While earlier projections placed the chance for snow at around 50 percent earlier this week, that changed to 60 percent Thursday afternoon and now seems even more certain at 70 percent, the meteorologist said. Projections of snow accumulations were also increased. "Right now we're saying it's going to be 'light accumulation,'" Evanego said. "... It's looking like it could be an inch or two or less; no more than an inch or two."

HAZELTON STANDARD-SPEAKER

LANCASTER NEWSPAPERS

LEHIGH VALLEY LIVE

POTTSTOWN MERCURY

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN HERALD

READING EAGLE

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE

STATE COLLEGE CENTRE DAILY TIMES

Penn State engineering: New dean looks to elevate doctoral, master's programs

The new dean of Penn State's College of Engineering just started here a few weeks ago and already has a comprehensive plan mapped out for the college. But, as Amr Elnashai told his new colleagues Friday, he's still having trouble getting his cable TV connected in his house. Elnashai mixed in his vision for the college with a few personal anecdotes during a reception to welcome him to campus. He will lead Penn State's largest college in terms of undergraduate population, at more than 7,000 students, and research expenditures, at more than \$145 million.

Read more here: <http://www.centredaily.com/2014/01/24/4001331/penn-state-engineering-new-dean.html#storylink=cpy>

SUNBURY DAILY ITEM

TOWANDA DAILY REVIEW

WASHINGTON OBSERVER-REPORTER

WILKES-BARRE CITIZENS VOICE

WILKES-BARRE TIMES LEADER

WILLIAMSPORT SUN GAZETTE

ASSOCIATED PRESS (PA)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON TIMES

WAMU-RADIO (NPR)

WTOP RADIO

GREENWIRE

PEOPLE: EPA loses its 'voice'

Dale Kemery decided at age 6 he wanted to be a radio star. "Every Sunday night I used to glue my ear to the radio," said Kemery, 73, who recalled listening to radio legends Jack Benny, Phil Harris and Alice Faye. "My dad made me a microphone, which was made out of a dowel and a piece of wood -- a piece of two-by-four painted red. I loved my mic." Kemery got started in radio while he was still in high school and worked for about a dozen stations across the country -- with stops in Hagerstown, Md.; Dayton, Ohio; and San Francisco -- in the late 1950s through the early '70s. He played chart-topping songs, broadcast the news and fine-tuned his deep, resonant voice. That voice has become familiar to environmental reporters who have been calling Kemery's line at U.S. EPA for nearly a decade about everything from bed bugs and health hazards of artificial turf to mysterious honeybee deaths. He was a press officer at EPA for about nine years before retiring last month. As a career staffer, he worked for both the George W. Bush and Obama administrations, starting at EPA in 2005.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

DELAWARE ONLINE

Heat is on for climate action

President Barack Obama's climate change agenda will take a major step forward this year with new rules for curbing carbon pollution. The regulations will help fulfill Obama's promise in last year's State of the Union address to act on climate change if Congress doesn't. As the president prepares to deliver this year's State of the Union speech on Tuesday -- and as his critics accuse him of waging a war on coal -- members of Delaware's congressional delegation and environmental advocates say he should use the speech to reaffirm his commitment to action on

climate change. “The president needs to show leadership and commitment to sticking with it,” said Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., who chairs the Senate subcommittee overseeing the Clean Air Act. “If he does, I think most Americans will decide to follow him, and I hope most of my colleagues.”

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

DNREC sets workshop on Inland Bays shellfish aquaculture regs for Jan. 30 The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control’s Division of Fish and Wildlife will hold a public workshop on Delaware’s Inland Bays shellfish aquaculture regulations currently under development at 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 30, at DNREC’s Lewes Field Facility, 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes. Shellfish aquaculture is the technical term for shellfish farming. A shellfish aquaculturist - or shellfish farmer - raises shellfish such as oysters in containers. The aquaculturist stocks these containers or cages with very young shellfish, raises them until they are market-sized, and then harvests them for sale. Many shellfish aquaculturists along the Atlantic Coast find their products are highly sought by shellfish lovers and gourmets. The workshop will gather public input on developing Delaware’s shellfish aquaculture regulations before proposed regulations are formally initiated through the state regulatory approval process. Shellfish aquaculture regulations are required to provide the legal structure for the state in leasing public subaqueous land for, and to oversee commercial shellfish aquaculture ventures in the Inland Bays. Division of Fish and Wildlife staff will present a summary of the developing shellfish aquaculture regulations at the workshop while providing details on specific aspects of the regulations, such as shellfish aquaculture development areas under consideration where shellfish aquaculture would be focused. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide their input on the developing regulations. The initiative to change Delaware law for allowing shellfish aquaculture in the Inland Bays began a couple years ago when the Center for the Inland Bays formed a team representing a cross section of interest in the Inland Bays to develop a model shellfish aquaculture law. The Delaware Legislature passed and the governor signed the Inland Bays shellfish aquaculture law in 2013. The law charged DNREC’s Division of Fish and Wildlife with drafting regulations for commercial shellfish aquaculture and to administer shellfish aquaculture in the Inland Bays. “We are on the final steps for commercial shellfish aquaculture to begin in the Inland Bays,” said David Saveikis, director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. “Shellfish aquaculture will occur in the Inland Bays based on the law passed in 2013 outlining the framework for shellfish aquaculture, but these developing regulations are needed to establish details and rules for allowing compatible commercial shellfish aquaculture to occur in the Inland Bays.”

MIDDLETOWN TRANSCRIPT

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Del.)

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Garden Guru: Superfoods are becoming garden superheroes

Over the last few weeks, I've talked about some of the trends that the garden marketing world has picked up and is using to influence everything from what you find at the garden center to what hot new garden books are hitting the shelves. For the first time, it is interesting to note, the sale of food plants and seeds has surpassed that of purely ornamental plants. This means that more gardeners, especially new gardeners, are growing more food than flowers. This week, we'll talk about how "superfoods" -- foods high in nutrients with health-boosting properties -- are becoming popular in home gardens and even showing up in the smallest of places.

Chemical tank dangers were well known

On July 17, 2001, boilermaker Jeffrey Davis and his co-workers were repairing a catwalk on a sulfuric acid storage tank at the Motiva Enterprises refinery in Delaware City, Del. Somehow, a spark ignited flammable vapors from the tank. The tank separated from its floor, instantaneously spilling its contents. Surround tanks also broke open, and a huge fire erupted. Davis, 50, was killed. His body was never recovered. Eight other workers were injured. More than 100,000 gallons of sulfuric acid flowed into the Delaware River.

MCHM leak inquiry will take about a year

The federal Chemical Safety Board has not discovered any holes in Freedom Industries' secondary containment wall, but the agency's investigation probably will last a year, and it's too early to know if the wall failed, CSB officials said Friday. A CSB investigative team has been at Freedom Industries, the site of the chemical leak that contaminated the region's drinking water, since Jan. 13, but investigations of this type generally take about a year, CSB lead investigator Johnnie Banks told a special joint legislative committee on water resources.

Geese, ducks, eagles seen in annual W.Va. survey

West Virginia's annual midwinter waterfowl survey tallied thousands of ducks and Canada geese well above the 10-year average. Biologists counted 8,797 ducks and 6,709 Canada geese, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources said. Compared to last year's count, ducks are up 67 percent and geese up 7 percent. Officials said the increase was not unexpected due to the weather that occurred in December. While mallards, Canada geese and black ducks were most commonly observed, biologists also reported seeing canvasbacks, tundra swans, wood ducks, redheads and others.

Kanawha water bottle recycling sites set up

The Kanawha County Solid Waste Authority has collaborated with the Kanawha County Commission to set up recycling drop-off sites to dispose of plastic water bottles. Recycling locations available Jan. 25 and 26 include:

Chemical tank bill moves to Senate floor

A second Senate committee moved forward Thursday with legislation aimed at creating new standards to govern above-ground chemical storage tanks in response to the Jan. 9 Elk River spill that contaminated water supplies serving 300,000 West Virginians. The legislation, which would require tank owners to register with the state and meet standards set by the state Department of Environmental Protection, now moves to the Senate floor.

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

Freedom site to be dismantled, shut down

The Freedom Industries tank farm responsible for the Elk River chemical contamination is going to be shut down and dismantled, according to an order from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection that was announced Saturday by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin. All chemicals must be removed from the facility by March 15. Freedom must begin the process of dismantling, removing and disposing of all of its above-ground tanks and all associated piping and machinery by that same day, according to the order.

Freedom Industries ordered to remove tanks after spill

West Virginia's governor has ordered the company at the center of a chemical spill that tainted the water supply for the state capital to begin the process of removing all above-ground storage tanks from the Charleston operation. A statement released Saturday by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's office says Freedom Industries must start the dismantling process by March 15. The Jan. 9 spill at Freedom Industries contaminated the water supply for 300,000 West Virginians. The order to dismantle and properly dispose of the tanks also includes associated piping and machinery. The facility currently has 17 tanks. The governor's order was included in a consent order issued Friday by the state Department of Environmental Protection and signed by Freedom Industries. The company has already been ordered to remove almost 1 million gallons of chemicals from the plant.

W.Va. PSC staff, union back water company reports

The West Virginia Public Service Commission's staff and a union say West Virginia American Water should continue submitting quarterly reports to the PSC on the quality of its service. On Friday, the PSC's staff and the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, Local 537 filed petitions supporting the PSC Consumer Advocate Division's request to require the reports until further notice. The division cited the Jan. 9 chemical spill that contaminated the water supply of 300,000 residents. The PSC ordered the service-related reports in 2011 in a case involving staffing levels. The final one covers the fourth quarter of 2013.

W.Va. water customers complain of higher bills

Some customers of West Virginia American Water are questioning why their bills went up even though they didn't use their tap water for several days after a chemical spill. Although he continues to use bottled water for drinking and cooking, Harry Machado of Winfield said his latest bill was about 40 percent more than the previous one. "We were out of town for two days during the water crisis, and we haven't been using the water for anything but flushing the toilet," Machado told The Charleston Gazette. About 300,000 water customers in nine counties were told not to use their tap water after a Jan. 9 chemical spill from a tank at Freedom Industries went

into the Elk River. After tests were conducted over several days, water customers were told to flush out their lines and start using tap water again. Freedom Industries told environmental officials recently that a second, less toxic chemical also was mixed in the tank.

W.Va. American Water losses above levels accepted by Public Service Commission

The West Virginia American Water Co. treatment plant in Charleston loses 3 million to 4 million gallons of the water it sends out to homes and businesses each month. That fact has the head of one labor union concerned about the potential for ground contamination. "One immediate concern raised by this data is that a consequence of the excessively high leak rate in West Virginia American's distribution system is that a significant amount of the contaminated water pumped through the system will have leaked into the ground," D. Michael Langford, president of the Utility Workers Union of America, wrote in a letter to state Public Service Commission Chairman Michael Albert Thursday. State officials and the water company have tested water coming into and leaving the affected treatment plant and fire hydrants all across the 1,700-mile pipeline.

BECKLEY NEWS REGISTER

BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH

HUNTINGTON HERALD DISPATCH

PARKERSBURG NEWS AND SENTINEL

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

WEST VIRGINIA STATE JOURNAL

WHEELING INTELLIGENCER

Company Knew Of Second Chemical

The company at the center of the West Virginia water crisis immediately knew a second

chemical leaked from its plant into the Elk River, and told its workers in an e-mail, according to a state environmental official. However, Freedom Industries did not let state government officials know about the second chemical right away. And state environmental department official Mike Dorsey said Thursday that most company employees did not skim far enough into the e-mail to see that information. It's unclear who sent the e-mail or how many of the company's 51 employees it reached. Dorsey made the remarks on MetroNews radio, explaining the 12-day delay in the second chemical's disclosure. He could not be reached for comment Friday.

Recycling Plant Hits Bump In The Road

GreenHunter Water has clearance from city officials and state environmental regulators to proceed with its natural gas frack water recycling project, but the West Virginia Division of Highways rejected the company's road permit. Without a road permit, tanker trucks carrying frack water and chemicals would not be allowed to enter and exit the plant at W. Va. 2's junction with North 28th Street in the Warwood section of Wheeling. "If they operated without a permit, we could certainly fine them," said Brent Walker, spokesman for the West Virginia Department of Transportation, which oversees the DOH. "We rejected the permit in August and have not heard back from them since."

Ohio, Pennsylvania Have Tougher Storage Regulations

If West Virginia had storage tank regulations in place similar to those in neighboring Ohio and Pennsylvania, the Jan. 9 chemical spill that left 300,000 residents in nine counties without access to potable water for days may have been averted. The spill released 7,500 gallons of a chemical known as MCHM from a Freedom Industries storage facility into the Elk River near Charleston, 1.5 miles upstream from West Virginia American Water's intake. On Monday, West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin announced new legislation to implement an above ground storage tank regulation program. Neighboring states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania already regulate the storage facilities. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection spokesman John Poister said a massive leak at an Ashland Oil Co. storage facility on Jan. 2, 1988, in that state promoted lawmakers to enact rigid storage tank regulations.

Pike Island Hydro Plant Is Debated

St. Clairsville, Woodsfield and Oberlin are among Ohio municipalities that could benefit if American Municipal Power generates 256,000 megawatt-hours of renewable power per year by building a hydroelectric plant at the Pike Island Locks and Dam. Yorkville village officials do not oppose the plant that would be built on the Ohio side of the dam, but Councilman Ron Emerson said they also want to know how it will affect them. "It is definitely going to impact the village of Yorkville," he said, noting the municipality's property extends to the edge of the Ohio River where the dam begins. "They could not build it on the West Virginia side because of the locks."

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. VA.)

Wrongful death suit filed over state mine accident MORGANTOWN, W.Va. -- The estate of a man killed during an incident at West Virginia mine is suing CONSOL Energy and two of its

employees for wrongful death. Glen Clutter Jr. of Baxter was killed in February 2013 after being struck in the head by a metal bar as he was trying to re-rail a supply car at CONSOL's Loveridge Mine near Fairview. CONSOL received citations from the U.S Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration as a result of the incident. The Dominion Post reports that the suit filed by the 51-year-old's family names CONSOL and two supervisors as defendants.

Appalachian Power gets approval for upgrades in W.Va. CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - West Virginia regulators have approved a request by an Appalachian Power affiliate to upgrade transmission facilities in the Kanawha Valley. The utility said Friday that the W.Va. Public Service Commission approved AEP West Virginia Transmission Company Inc.'s request this month. Regulators found that the facilities will enhance the reliability of the electric transmission grid and prevent conditions that could cause thermal overloads. The project will involve removing current transmission facilities and replacing them with more modern structures and equipment of the same voltage that can carry about twice the capacity of the original lines. The cost for the two projects is estimated to be \$173 million. Construction is expected to be complete in 2017. Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Checking on Earth's 'chimney'

For years, scientists have suspected that the warm waters of the western Pacific Ocean play a key role in shaping the Earth's climate. But satellite data provided only a partial picture of what's happening in this remote region of the globe. Now, an international team of researchers, including several from Maryland, is engaged in an ambitious effort to quantify those natural processes, making dozens of flights in three aircraft from mid-January through February to track the gases and particles from the ocean as they rise into the upper atmosphere. "This has interested scientists for many years because we know the atmosphere [there] acts like a huge chimney this time of year," Ross J. Salawitch, a professor of atmospheric chemistry at the University of Maryland, College Park, said from Guam.

Howard watershed 'academy' seeks recruits to carry message of bay ...

It all comes down to slowing the flow. By training residents to be savvy environmental leaders who can inspire their neighbors to take action, a nonprofit organization hopes to reduce the flow of polluted stormwater runoff that eventually empties into the Chesapeake Bay. The Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy — which just graduated its first class two months ago — is recruiting for a second class of volunteers interested in learning how to improve the water quality of local streams and rivers, which ultimately impacts the bay's health. "Slow the flow" is the popular mantra among those who are passionate about helping people understand the positive impact they can have on the bay, said Sylvia Huestis, a master watershed steward and member of the nonprofit's advisory committee.

CHESAPEAKE BAY JOURNAL

Blog: Proposed natural gas line threatens trout stream, drinking water (Friday) A proposed natural gas pipeline in the Gunpowder River watershed is raising alarms among environmentalists, who worry that its construction would disrupt one of the East Coast's finest trout rivers as well as drinking water for the Baltimore metropolitan region. Columbia Gas, a subsidiary of Texas-based energy giant NiSource, wants to build a 21.5 mile gas line that would extend from Owings Mills in Baltimore County to Rutledge in Harford County. The 26-inch natural gas line would follow Columbia's existing pipeline for 16.5 miles, then extend an additional five miles. Per a request from the Department of Natural Resources, it will go around Gunpowder Falls State Park instead of through it, which is one reason it needs the extension.

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL -GAZETTE

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

CARROLL COUNTY TIMES

CECIL WHIG

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

EASTON STAR DEMOCRAT

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

HAGERSTOWN HERALED MAIL

MARYLAND GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON POST

Purple Line won't harm two rare crustaceans, federal agency says; group prepares to sue

After reexamining the impact a Purple Line could have on springs in Chevy Chase and Rock Creek Park, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has found that the light-rail line's construction would not harm an endangered species living nearby. The finding — outlined in a Jan. 7 letter to the Federal Transit Administration — could spark a lawsuit over Maryland's plan to build a 16-mile Purple Line between Montgomery and Prince George's counties. John M. Fitzgerald, an environmental lawyer, said the nonprofit Center for Sustainable Economy and some Chevy Chase residents are preparing a "notice of intent to sue." He said a lawsuit would argue that the federal government hasn't done enough to protect two rare, tiny crustaceans: the Hay's Spring amphipod, which has been listed as a federally protected endangered species since 1982, and the Kenk's amphipod, which is a candidate for federal listing.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NEWS

HENRICO CITIZEN

Living waters, grasses for the masses

In November, I was fortunate enough to sit in on an interesting summit entitled "Living Waters" and held at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The interfaith summit – which drew approximately 150 people representing perspectives and traditions ranging from Hindu and Muslim to Zen Buddhist and Native American – was designed to bring environmentalists and people of faith together to promote a faith-based approach to environmentalism. Sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, with help from groups such as Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake and Virginia Interfaith Power and Light, the summit focused in particular on protecting the Chesapeake Bay and included a number of water-related presentations, panel discussions, idea-sharing and even songs highlighting the power and appeal of water in religious tradition (such as "Down to the River to Pray.")

CHESAPEAKE BAY JOURNAL

ASSOCIATED PRESS (MD)

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Panel rejects landfill proposal

The Central Virginia Waste Management Authority on Friday unanimously voted against the proposed East End Landfill expansion that the Henrico County Board of Zoning Appeals approved in June but that the Henrico Board of Supervisors opposed last month. The commercial landfill on Darbytown Road could still gain permit approval from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality because the waste management authority's decision does not dictate the agency's actions, officials said.

The expansion from 47 to 74 acres to fill in a U-shaped cut into the property likely would extend the life of the landfill up to 17 years. The proposal came after a management change in 2011 prompted by repeated code violations, potential health hazards of coal ash dumped there, and numerous fires between 2008 and 2010. The new owners and managers shut down the landfill in 2012 to bring the site to code, an improvement lauded even by opponents.

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Landfill gas to power several Virginia colleges

One institution's trash is another's energy source. Several small colleges in Virginia are switching to landfill gas as their source of electricity. Emory & Henry College, Hollins University, Lynchburg College, Randolph College and Sweet Briar College are partnering with landfill gas energy operator Ingenco. Ingenco captures methane generated by landfills, converts the gas to electricity and sells the electricity back to utilities. The switch is expected to save Emory and Henry between \$500,000 and \$1 million over the 12-year contract's life. It also could potential cut the school's carbon footprint in half, Jesse Freedman, the school's energy manager, told the Bristol Herald Courier.

Bedbugs temporarily close Richmond hospital's ER

A hospital in Henrico County temporary closed its emergency room after staff discovered a patient had bedbugs. Bon Secours spokeswoman Charlotte Perkins tells media outlets that St. Mary's Hospital immediately cleared the waiting room after the bedbugs were discovered Saturday. Adult patients seeking emergency treatment were rerouted to the pediatric emergency department. The emergency room was closed for four hours while an exterminator treated the facility.

CHESAPEAKE BAY JOURNAL

Virginia environmental directors named David Paylor re-appointed head of Environmental Quality; Joe Elton interim head of Conservation and Recreation David Paylor, Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, will continue on in the position he has held since his appointment in 2006 by Governor Tim Kaine. Virginia code states that the agency director "serves at the pleasure of the governor," so every administration change is an opportunity for changes in agency direction. Paylor has served Virginia government since 1973, when he began as a field biologist for the State Water Control Board, one of the predecessor agencies of DEQ, which manages regulatory and pollution prevention programs for air, water, waste, and coastal zones, including the Chesapeake Bay. In 2013, DEQ assumed responsibility for managing stormwater runoff from urban and suburban sources and non-point source pollution from permitted agricultural sources, a function previously coordinated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS

ROANOKE TIMES

CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS

CHESTERFIELD OBSERVER

State greenlights giant fly ash wall (Friday) Chesterfield residents huffed and puffed, but they couldn't topple a local landfill's plan to build an enormous retaining wall. Despite vehement opposition, the state's environmental regulatory agency last week approved Shoosmith Bros.' request for a permit modification that allows the company to use fly ash in the construction of a

large berm at its Lewis Road facility. The action by Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality came more than four months after about 150 county residents attended a mostly contentious public hearing on the technical merits of Shoosmith's application. DEQ also received 98 written comments – none of which supported construction of the berm – during a 15-day public comment period that concluded Sept. 25. Bill Hayden, a spokesman for DEQ, said that agency staff “put significant effort into evaluating and responding to public comments on the proposed Shoosmith permit. “We specifically addressed several concerns that were raised, and we put additional requirements in the permit to ensure that landfill operations protect people and the environment,” he added. “Because the permit now addresses these concerns, DEQ believes it meets the requirements of the landfill regulations.” As a condition of the state's approval, Shoosmith must take the following actions in addition to the legal requirements already listed in its permit:

DANVILLE REGISTER & BEE

FREDERICKSBURG FREELANCE STAR

LYNCHBURG NEWS AND ADVANCE

GREENWIRE

VIRGINIA: Lawmakers vote to repeal hybrid tax

Owners of hybrid vehicles in Virginia would not have to pay an annual license tax under a new bill approved yesterday by the Virginia House of Delegates. State lawmakers voted to repeal a \$64 tax charged to hybrid owners, matching a similar bill approved by the state Senate. Both chambers must vote on each other's language for the tax to be repealed. Supporters said the tax penalizes drivers who opt for energy-efficient vehicles that produce less carbon dioxide emissions. "You were taxing people for doing the right thing," said Del. Scott Surovell (D). But others said the tax makes sense because it requires hybrid owners to help pay for road repairs that are mostly funded through a state gasoline tax.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (VA.)

DEQ NEWS CLIPS

State greenlights giant fly ash wall

Chesterfield residents huffed and puffed, but they couldn't topple a local landfill's plan to build an enormous retaining wall. Despite vehement opposition, the state's environmental regulatory agency last week approved Shoosmith Bros.' request for a permit modification that allows the company to use fly ash in the construction of a large berm at its Lewis Road facility. The action by Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality came more than four months after about 150 county residents attended a mostly contentious public hearing on the technical merits of Shoosmith's application. DEQ also received 98 written comments – none of which supported construction of the berm – during a 15-day public comment period that concluded Sept. 25. Bill Hayden, a spokesman for DEQ, said that agency staff “put significant effort into evaluating and responding to public comments on the proposed Shoosmith permit.

Virginia environmental directors named

David Paylor, Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, will continue on in the position he has held since his appointment in 2006 by Governor Tim Kaine. Virginia code states that the agency director "serves at the pleasure of the governor," so every administration change is an opportunity for changes in agency direction. Paylor has served Virginia government since 1973, when he began as a field biologist for the State Water Control Board, one of the predecessor agencies of DEQ, which manages regulatory and pollution prevention programs for air, water, waste, and coastal zones, including the Chesapeake Bay. In 2013, DEQ assumed responsibility for managing stormwater runoff from urban and suburban sources and non-point source pollution from permitted agricultural sources, a function previously coordinated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). On January 9, 2014, Joe Elton assumed the position of Interim Director of DCR, which oversees non-point source pollution management through the soil and water conservation districts. DCR also provides state management of natural heritage assets, land conservation activities, dam safety, environmental education, and state parks and recreation areas. Elton most recently was DCR's division director for state parks, widely recognized as one of the best systems in the country.

Some cities seek delays, tweaks in runoff regulations

Municipal types call it stormwater. Environmentalists call it polluted runoff. Whatever name you use, rain that gushes off roads, buildings and parking lots - picking up a nasty slurry of trash, dirt, oil, bacteria and pesticides - is a leading cause of pollution in rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Virginia is tightening runoff regulations and handing over administration and enforcement to localities. The new rules are scheduled to take effect July 1, but some local officials want to tweak them and say they need more time to get ready for what they describe as an expensive change.

MISCELLANEOUS

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

GREENWIRE

Browner defends Obama's record on global warming President Obama's first climate change "czar" defended his 2013 climate record today, telling reporters that the administration is "doing the work" on policies to address emissions. Speaking on a call hosted by the League of Conservation Voters -- one of 18 environmental groups that last week blasted Obama in a letter for his message of an "all of the above" energy policy -- Carol Browner praised Obama's performance on the issue (*E&E Daily*, Jan. 17). "We all understand that there's a transition that has to take place from the energy we're using today to the energy that we're going to use in the near term, and then ultimately the energy that we're going to use over a longer term," she said. "And I think the real question is, is the president committed to that transition?" Obama and his agencies -- including U.S. EPA, which Browner led under President Clinton, and the Energy Department -- are implementing policies like appliance efficiency standards and carbon rules that will facilitate that transition, she said. Browner was joined on the call by Gene Karpinski, president of LCV and one of the signatories to the letter. Karpinski said that environmentalists might hope that the administration would maintain a faster pace in policymaking but expressed confidence that EPA would adhere to the president's ambitious schedule for regulating new and existing power plants. The rules are the cornerstone of Obama's Climate Action Plan, released in June. "That is by far the biggest significant chunk we can do in the plan," he said. The president directed the agency to propose its new power plant rule by Sept. 20 of last year -- a deadline that EPA met -- and to propose the existing power plant rule by June. A final rule is due a year later. The environmental community is also waiting to see whether the administration will grant TransCanada Corp. a permit to build its controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline. LCV and other groups have campaigned hard against the Alberta-to-Texas pipeline, arguing that it would result in an explosion of high-carbon fuel development. But Karpinski said he did not know where the president would come down on the issue.

Greens urge Obama to tout conservation in SOTU speech In his first State of the Union speech in 2001, George W. Bush asked Congress to provide full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a bold proposal that many Republicans in today's Congress would balk at.

PEOPLE: EPA loses its 'voice' Dale Kemery decided at age 6 he wanted to be a radio star. "Every Sunday night I used to glue my ear to the radio," said Kemery, 73, who recalled listening to radio legends Jack Benny, Phil Harris and Alice Faye. "My dad made me a microphone, which was made out of a dowel and a piece of wood -- a piece of two-by-four painted red. I loved my mic." Kemery got started in radio while he was still in high school and worked for about a dozen stations across the country -- with stops in Hagerstown, Md.; Dayton, Ohio; and San Francisco -- in the late 1950s through the early '70s. He played chart-topping songs, broadcast the news and fine-tuned his deep, resonant voice.

VIRGINIA: Lawmakers vote to repeal hybrid tax Owners of hybrid vehicles in Virginia would not have to pay an annual license tax under a new bill approved yesterday by the Virginia House

of Delegates. State lawmakers voted to repeal a \$64 tax charged to hybrid owners, matching a similar bill approved by the state Senate. Both chambers must vote on each other's language for the tax to be repealed. Supporters said the tax penalizes drivers who opt for energy-efficient vehicles that produce less carbon dioxide emissions. "You were taxing people for doing the right thing," said Del. Scott Surovell (D). But others said the tax makes sense because it requires hybrid owners to help pay for road repairs that are mostly funded through a state gasoline tax.

AGRICULTURE: FDA plans overhaul of nutrition labels

The nutrition labels on food products will get a major overhaul for the first time in 20 years. The Food and Drug Administration said it plans to revamp its labeling system to reflect changes in nutritional thinking from the last time the label was updated in the early 1990s. "The food environment has changed, and our dietary guidance has changed," said Michael Taylor, the agency's deputy commissioner for foods. "It's important to keep this updated." During the last update, "there was a big focus on fat, and fat undifferentiated," said Michael Taylor, FDA's deputy commissioner for foods. Now the emphasis has shifted to calories and warnings against certain kinds of fats, like trans fats. Those got their own spot on the label in 2006.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report on rail risks boosts Keystone XL, supporters say WASHINGTON — A government warning about the dangers of increased use of trains to transport crude oil is giving a boost to supporters of the long-delayed Keystone XL pipeline. U.S. and Canadian accident investigators urged their governments Thursday to impose new safety rules on so-called oil trains, warning that a "major loss of life" could result from an accident involving the increasing use of trains to transport large amounts of crude oil. Pipeline supporters said the unusual joint warning by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and the Transportation Safety Board of Canada highlights the need for Keystone XL, which would carry oil derived from tar sands in western Canada to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast. Oil started flowing Wednesday through a southern leg of the pipeline from Oklahoma to the Houston region. Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., said the yearslong review of Keystone has forced oil companies to look for alternatives to transport oil from the booming Bakken region of North Dakota and Montana to refineries in the U.S. and Canada. A planned spur connecting Keystone to the Bakken region would carry as much as 100,000 barrels of oil a day. "Clearly because this project has been held up, that is creating more (oil) traffic by rail," Hoeven said Thursday. "Those companies are being forced to deliver their product by rail because they don't have the pipelines." A pipeline opponent said Hoeven's argument is based on a false choice between moving oil by rail or pipeline.

NEW YORK TIMES

U.S. and Canada Urge New Safety Rules for Crude Oil Rail Shipments

In a joint move that highlighted growing concerns about the safety of crude oil transportation by rail, officials from the United States and Canada issued a series of recommendations on Thursday, including that oil-laden trains avoid populated and sensitive areas. The recommendations, by the National Transportation Safety Board and the Transportation Safety

Board of Canada, follow several catastrophic accidents and derailments of trains carrying crude oil in the last year, including one that killed 47 people last July in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

More Views on Nuclear Power, Waste, Safety and Cost

Here's another round in a continuing exploration of views on next steps for nuclear power. Earlier this week, I received a letter arguing for a fresh push on nuclear technologies, building on the argument of James Hansen and three other climate researchers that I wrote about last fall. The letter, which can be read below or downloaded here, is written by four men with long involvement in various facets of managing, studying or working in nuclear energy and physics. It examines questions about the safety and costs of nuclear power relative to coal and other choices for electricity generation, along with the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons and emissions of greenhouse gases relative to other energy sources. See what you think:

Pipeline Fight Lifts Environmental Movement

Environmentalists have spent the past two years fighting the Keystone XL pipeline: They have built a human chain around the White House, clogged the State Department's public comment system with more than a million emails and letters, and gotten themselves arrested at protests across the country. But as bad as they argue the 1,700-mile pipeline would be for the planet, Keystone XL has been a boon to the environmental movement. While it remains unclear whether President Obama will approve the project, both sides agree that the fight has changed American environmental politics.

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

BLOOMBERG NEWS SERVICE

GRIST

HUFFINGTON POST

PLATTS.COM

Marcellus shale wells produce less wastewater than conventional ...

While natural gas production in the Marcellus Shale has increased the volumes of wastewater produced in the region nearly sixfold, shale wells in the play produce about one-third the wastewater per unit of gas recovered than do conventional wells, a new study has found. "Despite producing less wastewater per unit of gas, developing the Marcellus shale has increased the total wastewater generated in the region by [about] 570% since 2004, overwhelming current wastewater disposal infrastructure capacity," the study released this week by researchers at Kent State and Duke universities said. The study, which its authors said is the first comprehensive characterization of wastewater volumes generated by Marcellus wells, analyzed data from 2,189 active Marcellus wells in Pennsylvania and compared gas production and wastewater volumes with conventional wells.

DAILY FINANCE

3 Companies to Watch in the Marcellus This Year

It's safe to say that natural gas production from Pennsylvania's Marcellus shale continues to exceed even the most optimistic of forecasts. Despite the bitter cold that has halted much activity across the nation, gas drilling in the Marcellus has seen little impact. According to the US Energy Administration's monthly drilling productivity report, Marcellus shale output surged by about 261,000 Mcf/d to a record 13.46 Bcf/d in December. That's a whopping 12% increase over October production levels of 12 Bcf/d and a roughly sevenfold increase since 2009. With new infrastructure projects set to substantially improve takeaway capacity in the region this year, let's take a closer look at three Marcellus producers worth keeping a close eye on. Cabot Oil & Gas...Chesapeake Energy...CONSOL Energy